Saturday, December 29, 2007



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Killing sparks violence

Even as Pakistan weeps for Bhutto

GARHI KHUDA Bakhsh, Pakistan—Former Premier Benazir Bhutto, killed in a suicide attack that plunged the nuclear-armed country into one of the worst crises in its 60-year history, was laid to rest in her family's ancestral grave Friday amid the wails and tears of hundreds of thousands of mourners.





GRIEF RUNS IN THE STREETS.

GMA, world leaders condemn assassination

She was beautiful, brilliant, charismatic; her life a sprawling epic

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL GAP

GMA's press office prefers cell phones to ₱739-M satellite grid

I-TEAM Report

Catanduanes shows how at the least cost

Palparan to PDI: I have record of good results

Warning: Look ma, no hands





Priests slug it out, break peace in little town of Bethlehem

Second FrontPage

EZ2 | FOUR DIGIT | SUERTRES | MEGALOTTO 6/45

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Talks rife on recall bid vs Panlilio

Gov's political enemies to launch move next year, say supporters

WHAT'S INSIDE

9 OUT OF 10 Pinoys face 2008 with more hope, says new survey

A16

SOLDIERS GET warning vs firing of guns to greet the new year

A5

Bill pushes health insurance for kids



Child rights group chides gov't on special treatment of Jalosjos

Duque: Gov't winning war vs poverty

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Construction of Concrete Pier at Naval Operating Base (NOB) at Batu-Batu, Tawi-Tawi

Solon eyes more bed space for the elderly

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ADMINISTRATION lawmaker wants more bed space for the elderly in hospitals.

In House Bill No. 1937, Davao Oriental Rep. Thelma Almario is seeking the establishment of "Senior Citizens Wards" in both private and public hospitals specifically for their confinement.

"Our elderly barely have the means, the access to health and medical services and attention they need from specialists in diseases and [other] health problems," the lawmaker said in a statement.

Almario said the allocation of specific wards for the elderly would spare them and their families the trouble of having to compete with other patients for hospital space.

The proposal was another benefit being sought for elderly Filipinos enjoying privileges under the Senior Citizen's Act which include discounts in restaurants and drugstores.

The idea of establishing separate wards for a particular set of patients is not exactly new in the Philippine health care system.

Hospitals participating in the Philippine Medical Tourism Program, for instance, set aside a substantial amount of beds to accommodate foreign patients.

Often, these wards would have better facilities and accommodation than the average hospital rooms.







GMA's press office prefers cell phones

Obsolete technology

New loan



FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL

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Victim of mismanagement

Leadership problems

Bunye prefers cell phones

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MARITONI FRANCIA

CRESCENCIA MUSNI

Catanduanes shows ...

Bag-type phones

White elephant

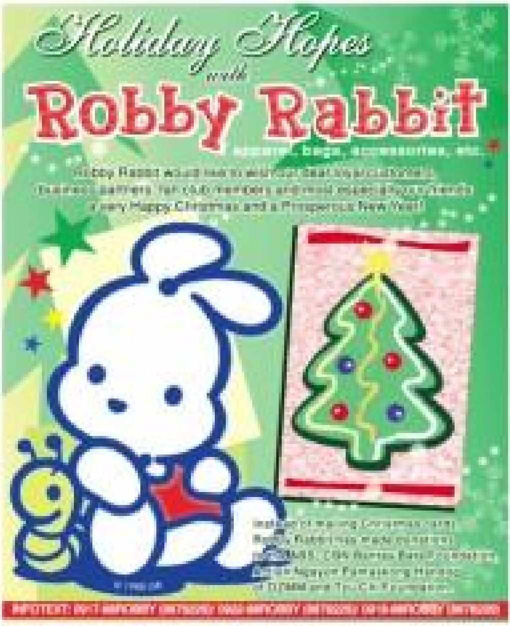
Not without problems

Soldiers warned vs firing of guns to greet New Year

'Gunless Week'

Cracker ban near Naia

Sumbo; 67





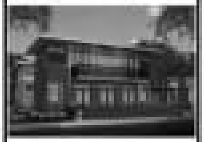
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Angat level up, water supply assured

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER THE OMINOUS DRY SPELL of several months ago, there is now sufficient water in Angat Dam to last until May next year, the weather bureau said yesterday.

The water level in the reservoir is sufficient to supply the water needs of Metro Manila and irrigate farms in Central Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

"There's sufficient water until the rainy season," Jun Borja, supervising weather specialist of Pagasa's flood forecasting branch, said in an interview. "We have no reason to worry about the water supply."

The water level in the dam was at 210.27 meters above sea level yesterday morning, way above the dam's rule curve of 207.21 m.

The rule curve is the elevation of water at which a dam can normally supply water for power generation, domestic use and irrigation.

Less than normal

For two months beginning in June, Regions 1, 2, 3, the Cordillera Administrative Region and Metro Manila were hit by a dry spell, characterized by less than normal rainfall.

With the dry spell, the water level in major dams in Luzon, including Angat, dipped to way below the critical level. A drought was averted, however, when storms swirled in mid-August, dumping moderate to heavy rains.

Angat Dam supplies 97 percent of the water needs of the estimated 12 million residents of the metropolis, and most of the irrigation requirements of the farms in Central Luzon.

Borja said that moisture from the monsoon helped bring the water level in Angat to a "safe level."

"The amount of rainfall is just equal to the amount of water being released for domestic use and irrigation," he said.

Scattered rainshowers

The water levels in San Roque Dam in Pangasinan, Binga and Ambuklao dams in Benguet, Magat Dam in Isabela and Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija were slightly lower than their respective rule curves.

But they are at the safe level, Borja said.

The formation, meanwhile, and the tailend of the cold front will bring scattered rainshowers to eastern and southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao beginning today.

Good weather will prevail over the rest of Luzon except for "passing showers," it said.

As the tailend of the cold front moves southward, the eastern and southern parts of Luzon will continue to experience cloudy skies with scattered showers, according to Pagasa's weather outlook in the run-up to the New Year.

Widespread and frequent rains are forecast to fall over Aurora, Quezon and the Bicol region tomorrow, which could trigger flash floods and landslides. Fishermen in the seaboards of Luzon should prepare for moderate to high waves.

Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. [illegible]
Series of 2007

ESTABLISHING A ONE STOP SHOP PROCESSING CENTER FOR HOUSING RELATED PERMITS IN THE HLURB

[illegible]

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. [illegible]
Series of 2007

IMPLEMENTING SECTION 4 OF EO 45 SERIES OF 2001 [illegible] CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND LICENSE TO SELL FOR SUBDIVISION AND CONDOMINIUM PROJECTS

[illegible]

RESOLUTION NO. [illegible]
Series of 2007

RESTORING RESOLUTION NO. [illegible] LIMITING JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS AS A MODE OF COMPLIANCE TO THE BALANCED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279 [illegible]

[illegible]

RESOLUTION NO. [illegible]
Series of 2007

APPROVING THE FASTRACKING OF THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION AND LICENSE TO SELL

[illegible]

Neri: Move to Finance beyond my ambition

By Jerry E. Esplanada

COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) acting chair Romulo Neri yesterday brushed aside talk Malacañang was seriously considering naming him the next finance secretary vice Margarito Teves.

"I think that's beyond my ambition ... that'll be a miracle," Neri told the Inquirer.

Neri said he would "just be happy to be allowed to go back to the National Economic and Development Authority after my six-month stint at CHEd ends."

Marching orders

Neri, former socioeconomic planning secretary and budget department head, has marching orders from President Macapagal-Arroyo to "troubleshoot" at the commission up to February 2008.

He took over the CHEd on Aug. 16 from Carlito Puno after the latter purportedly failed to aggressively implement the "ladderized" education programs of the administration, among other reasons.

Neri had reportedly said he wanted to finish his assignment at CHEd within six months and insisted he had "no ambitions of staying here longer."

Quoting at least two ranking administration officials and the leader of an influential business group, a member of a presidential education task force, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak, said Neri was a "shoo-in" for the finance portfolio.

The Inquirer source identified the officials but asked that they not be identified due to the sensitive nature of the issue.

Reorganization

The same source described the officials as being "among Secretary Neri's friends."

The Office of the President had advised all Cabinet members and other presidential appointees, including officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations and state financial institutions, that a revamp would be under way early next year.

The reorganization of the President's official family is a "continuing thing," according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

The other day the President started a yearend performance review of Cabinet secretaries after the Commission on Appointments bypassed yet again several of her appointees.

Ms Arroyo is reportedly considering appointing some losing pro-administration senatorial bets in the last elections to Cabinet positions.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, December 29, 2007
5th Day, Octave of Christmas
Thomas Becket

1st Reading: 1 Jn 2:3-11
Gospel: Luke 2:22-35

[illegible]

Hotel caper no rebellion, says Trillanes lawyer

By Julie M. Aurelio

Legitimate act

Lack of merit

Judge orders Lim moved back to Crame

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Manok (whole)	P110-130
Itlog (piraso)	P4-4.75
Ampalaya	P48-70
Repolyo	P44-70
Carrot	P40-60
Habitsuelas	P28-50

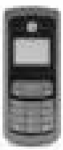
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Warning to New Year revelers: Look ma, no hands

Roxas lauds court decision on Manalo brothers' petition

Palparan to PDI: I have record of good results

Priests slug it out, break peace in little town of Bethlehem

Ex-BSP deputy governor Edgardo Zialcita dies

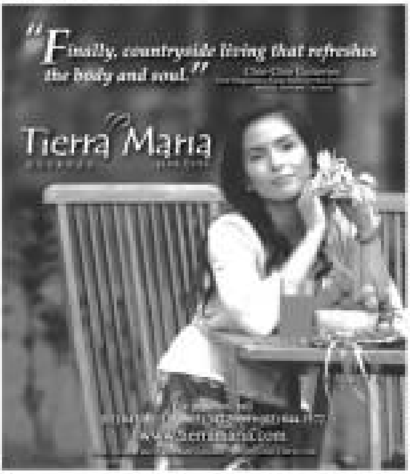
ECONOMIST EDGARDO PASCUAL ZIALCITA, formerly deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, died yesterday. He was 73.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish in New Manila, Quezon City, and will be cremated at Loyola Memorial Chapel on Dec. 30, 2007 at 9 a.m. Interment will follow after a 2 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish.

A career central banker for 30 years, Zialcita graduated with a BS degree in economics at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Zialcita is survived by wife Malu, children and children-in-law Rosan and Abes, Mike and Weng, Daffy and Michelle, Anna Liza, Brian and Marj and grandchildren Paolo, Luigi, Javier, Nico, Isabel, Anica and Diego.

[illegible]



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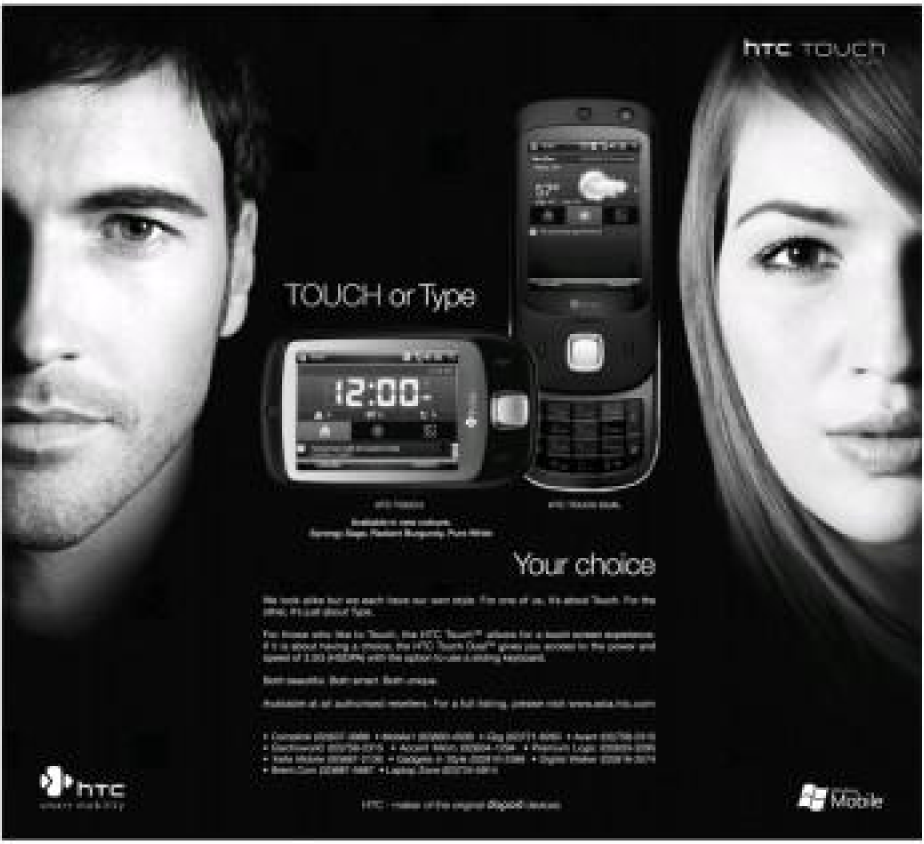
- Japanese Business Language
- Let Your English Work at Work

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Deepening crisis

EDITORIAL



Rizal's 'Indolence of the Filipinos'

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

Asia's Latin America

COMMENTARY

Isabel T. Escoda

Statistics for justice

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Looking to 2008

COMMENTARY

Eugenia Duran-Apostol

Fireworks at the Palace

BETWEEN DEADLINES

Giant-lantern effect

YOUNG BLOOD

Christine C. Salas

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

THEY SAID

Loser

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Filipino over English

Common sense, not hysterics

No receipts in 'tiangge'



The problem with GMA, Esperon and other militarists

Undeserved publicity for communist-terrorist

GSIS missed retiree's 3 years of service



INQUIRER

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Killing sparks violence even as Pakistan weeps

GMA, world leaders condemn assassination



Int'l media fear 'nightmare scenario'

She was beautiful, brilliant, charismatic; her life a sprawling epic

INQUIRER Visayas

PhilHealth probes cataract claims

Leonila Divino, of Barangay Bata in Bacolod, underwent cataract operation and multiple laser treatment for both eyes. She went blind shortly after the procedure

Deception

Unethical practices







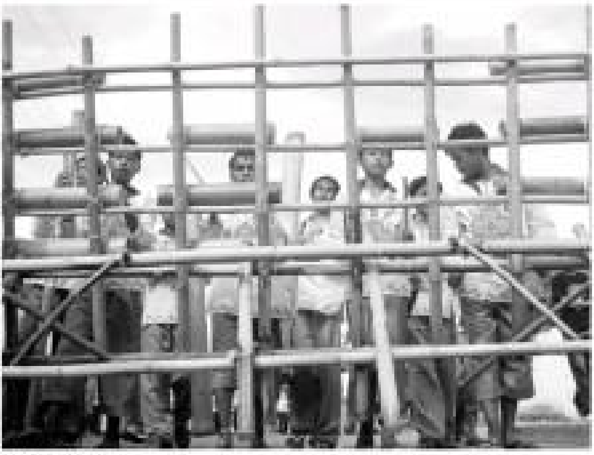
Bloody Christmas in Cebu

Across the NATION

Solon says Asean summit deals violated laws 'with impunity'

BAYAN MUNA REP. TEODORO CASIÑO SAID THE alleged overprice of the Cebu International Convention Center by P50 million was "only the tip of the iceberg" of corruption in the preparations for the 12th Asean Leaders' Summit in Cebu in January.

Arrest order sought for mayor over custody war



BAMBOO CAPITAL

Cebu customs take falls amid reports of smuggling

MILF awaits notice on talks' resumption

Panlilio critics ask bishop: Is he still priest?



NEWS

Poll: Pinoys see more hope in 2008

SMART turns Araneta Center into a FREE WiFi hotzone.

Leading wireless services provider Smart Communications, Inc. (SMART) recently tied up with Araneta Center Inc. (ACI) to explore solutions and technologies that will provide Wireless Fidelity (WiFi) Internet service for Araneta Center in Quezon City.

SMART shall provide free Wireless Fidelity Service – also known as hotzoning – to areas around the 35-hectare Araneta Center, home to some of the finest shopping, dining and entertainment establishments in the metropolis. Hotzones are venues that offer WiFi access making it possible for people to use their laptops, PDAs or dual mode phones to access the Internet.

"The service will enable Araneta Center to offer free access to the Internet to people visiting the area which averages more than a million transients daily. It will allow them to experience greater convenience by using this free Internet access to check their email, chat with their friends and update their blogs and social networking sites while on-the-go," says Danilo J. Mojica, head of SMART's Wireless Consumer Division.

SMART's hotzoning feature will be available for free at Gateway Mall and in the perimeters of Araneta Coliseum, Shopwise, Araneta Center and in the area of Ali Mall (along Times Square and General McArthur Avenue).

"People visiting the Araneta Center can easily connect to the world wide web to work or browse with WiFi-enabled devices while in a coffee shop, restaurant or in any establishment within the area," says Grace Magno, SVP-Marketing of Araneta Group.

"Establishments around Araneta Center with high sit-in traffic would also benefit from hotzoning since consumers tend to stay in coffee shops or restaurants and purchase drink or food items as they work," Magno adds.

SMART's hotzoning of the Araneta Center marks another consumer-oriented innovation from the cellular leader. Several other services, such as SMART Money financial solutions, are in the pipeline and will provide the Araneta Group and their customers with connectivity, mobility and access to other innovative technologies.

"Our leadership position puts us in the best place to understand and serve the rapidly evolving needs of our customers. SMART provides not only cutting-edge connectivity, but also advances in providing information, entertainment and transaction technologies that make life more convenient for all," Mojica says.

For more information, log on to www.aranetacenter.net or www.gatewaymall.com.ph



A plus METRO

Doc charged for alleged botched operation

NBI files case of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION HAS charged a doctor of a private hospital in Manila for an alleged botched operation.



LRT, MRT to close early on Dec. 31

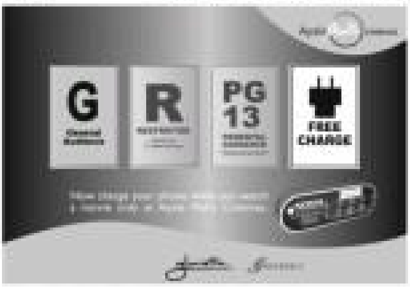
700 new policemen deployed to Metro Manila for New Year

Lim adopts 'zero vendor' policy for '08



SIGN OF ...
HAIRCUT OR FOOD OUTLET!

Back to basics as Las Piñas welcomes the New Year







I believe Mayor Rody Duterte

On Target



Doc charged for alleged ...

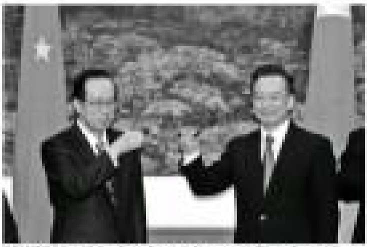
Severe pains

New operation

Prognosis

Checkup

Fukuda brings new warmth to China-Japan ties



JAPANESE Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda (left) shakes with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao after a signing ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Dec. 28.

Reuters

Obama hammers Clinton as polls show tight race



OBAMA at a campaign stop Dec. 27 in Des Moines, Iowa.

AFP

Key events of 2007

AFP



The WORLD

Bhutto's end prophetic of cursed dynasties

By Simon Denyer

NEW DELHI—BENAZIR BHUTTO ONLY ENTERED politics after her father was executed by the military.

On Thursday she was assassinated, a depressingly predictable end for a member of one of South Asia's seemingly cursed political dynasties.

Powerful families from the Bhuttos of Pakistan to the Gandhis of India and the Bandaranaike family of Sri Lanka have dominated politics in the diverse and poverty-stricken region since independence from Britain.

But many have been cropped tragically at the hands of rebels, extremists or ambitious military leaders.

It was Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who founded Pakistan's political dynasty. He became the country's first popularly elected prime minister but was toppled by the army in 1977 and later hanged.

Both his sons died in mysterious circumstances.

His daughter Benazir, a former prime minister, was lucky to survive when a suicide attack on her motorcade killed nearly 140 people as she returned to Pakistan in October after eight years in exile.

Later that month she paid an emotional return to her father's grave in their ancestral village in southern Pakistan.

"There is still danger of attack, but Allah can protect everyone and I am not scared," she said.

In India, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was shot by her Sikh bodyguards as she walked in her garden in 1984, cradled by her Italian daughter-in-law Sonia as she lay dying.

The tragedy propelled her son and Sonia's husband Rajiv into politics and into her shoes as head of government.

He in turn was blown up by a female suicide bomber in 1991 at an election rally.

With grim precision, Sonia wrote she had "fought like a tigress" to prevent Rajiv entering politics.



BENAZIR Bhutto (center) placing rose petals Oct. 27 on the grave of her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was himself hanged in 1977. —AP

After he died, she desperately wanted to stay out of politics, only to yield in 1998 after enormous pressure from the Congress party. Today she is India's most powerful politician.

"That's part of political fate, and my mother-in-law and my husband lived and died for the country," she said in an interview in 2004. "I don't believe they wished to die in any other way."

This troubled region has faced an array of violent uprisings by groups who felt excluded out by democracy. The military has often felt it could do a better job of ruling than politicians.

That's helped to make politics a risky career path.

"In this region there is this struggle between the ballot and the bullet," said Mahesh Rangarajan, a political analyst and Delhi University history professor. "There are elements and groups who wish to settle political scores by violent means."

The murders have inevitably helped sustain these dynasties the assassins tried to destroy, propelling sometimes reluctant heirs into the limelight, giving them both a powerful sense of a legacy to be fulfilled and a wave of sympathy on which to ride.

In Sri Lanka, then Ceylon, Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike was killed by a Buddhist monk in 1959.

His wife Sirimavo succeeded him to become the world's first female prime minister.

His daughter Chandrika Kumaratunga, also became prime minister and then president, only to lose sight in her right eye after an assassination attempt by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in 1999.

In Bangladesh, which split from Pakistan in 1971, the country's two leading politicians had similarly violent starts to their political careers.

Sheikh Hasina entered politics after her father, independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed in a military coup in 1975.

The man who came to power after that coup, Gen. Ziaur Rahman, was himself killed in an abortive military mutiny in 1981. His wife Begum Khaleda Zia was not daunted, giving up life as a housewife to join politics herself.

She became the Muslim country's first female prime minister in 1991, before bitter rival Sheikh Hasina took over the top job in 1996. Today, both have been detained by a military-backed government and face prosecution for corruption.

It is not only dynasties which have suffered.

Mohandas K. Gandhi, also known as the Mahatma or Great Soul, was assassinated in 1948. Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan was shot and killed in 1951 in Rawalpindi, the same city in which Benazir Bhutto died on Thursday.

In a family interview with India's Outlook magazine in Dubai last year, Benazir said she hoped her three children would choose a different career path.

"Even though I come from a political family with a strong sense of duty to my country I would strongly advise them to stay away from politics, to serve the country in other ways," she was quoted as saying. "Be a doctor, a social worker, anything."

Reuters

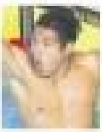
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SPORTS



WHAT'S INSIDE

Onus on NSAs to prepare Pinoy Olympic bets /A23



Hot Realtors drain fire out of Dragons

Olympic venues all done but one





Hapee courts history, guns for sweep today

NCAA: THE YEAR THAT WAS

Red Lions roar again in season mired by rows



SPORTSWATCH

Makati champ known today

Pasig derby finals kick off



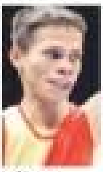
RP's Polymaster Kings get going vs Macau cagers

Unsportsmanlike?

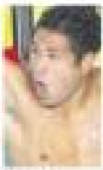
Bowlers hit out at Balikbayan keg organizer

Onus on NSAs to prepare Olympics-bound athletes

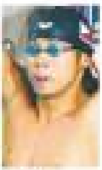
By June Navarro


TAÑAMOR


RIVERO


COAKLEY


JAVIER


MOLINA

Pacquiao guns for NCA world derby crown

Macapagal voted Asian shoot exec


PNSA president Art Macapagal receives a plaque of appreciation from ASC head Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah.

Malangasa surprises final Clark criterium field



SPORTS

Celtics, Cavs score



Boston 'savior' Garnett leads All-Star vote



GARNETT

Thomas unsure of Marbury return



Bulls assistant gets top post for the season

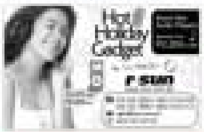
Goolagong No. 1 tennis player–after 30 years



GOOLAGONG







BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



Shell need not shell out ₱1.7B in taxes

High court says oil firm's use of TCCs valid

THE SUPREME COURT HAS CLEARED PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. from paying more than ₱1.7 billion in excise tax deficiencies for the years 1992 and 1994 to 1997.

Agriculture's focus: Modernization, self-sufficiency

YEARENDER

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE was also at the forefront of government efforts to stabilize, if not bring down, prices of basic commodities.

Foreign investments

CURRENCIES



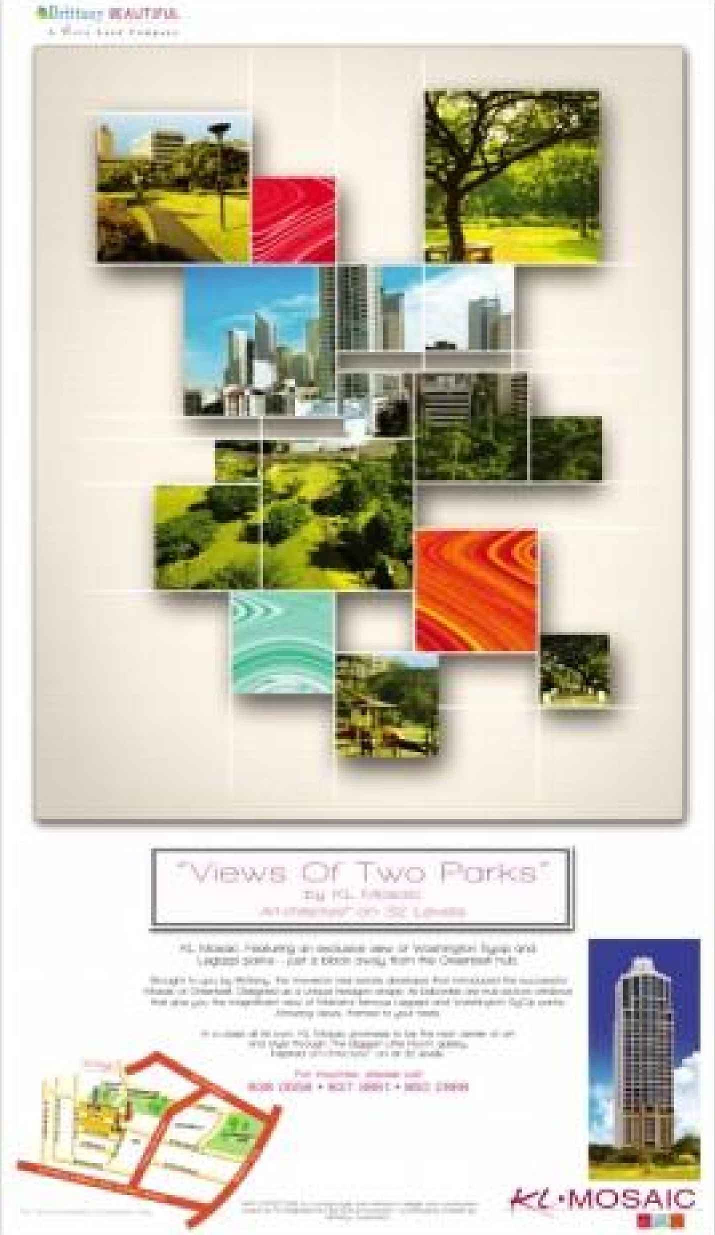
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Shares close 1.3% lower



Listed companies raised record ₱89.9-B capital in '07

Follow-on offerings up 65%

Makati Finance to offer 96.7M new, existing shares

Shell cleared from paying P1.7B in taxes

Agriculture's …

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Oct. imports up 9.6% to $5.14B

Neda official says full-year growth seen to hit 8%



SMC completes sale of Aussie dairy, juice firm

Foreign debt stock up to $54.4B

More efficient market hinged on privatization

GOINGS-ON

PSBank bags MAP award

Cebuano youth visit EU office

NOTICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES

People, Events & Products

Get remittances faster with Metrobank



ETON PROPERTIES, MJ MANGIO & ASSOCIATES SIGN MOA

Daiso signs exclusive agreement with The DIY Shop



New Year's Eve bash at The Richmonde Hotel



Goodyear's Bayani ng Kalsada nomination deadline Dec. 31

Be safe, make sure to buy original Dragon Fireworks



The gift for someone who has almost everything





ASIATRUST BANK HOLDS COUNTERFEIT DETECTION SEMINARS

Asiatrust open Dec. 31

MORE PEP ON B-6

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Doc reveals instant ways to stay younger



Multitude

Standard

Permanent option

Changing attitudes

DISCOVER



What the world needs now

Another way to go

Elephants

When the mice came to play

St. Luke's health gift certificates give couple peace of mind

CAREPLUS



First executive checkup

Best value for money



Eureka! Christmas puzzle solutions

EUREKA!



Extraneous info

Second eye and ear

Greeting

KIDS QUIZ

Branches of science

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pe_pep@inquirer.com.ph
Editor: Arlen Espinosa

Metrobank reaps award for CSR efforts

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST Company (Metrobank), the country's largest bank, was recognized once again for its good corporate citizenship in the Philippines. The Asian Banking & Finance Magazine, one of the leading independent business publications in Asia, recently held its inaugural Retail Management Awards in Singapore organized by the Charlton Media Group.

Metrobank Foundation, the Bank's corporate social responsibility arm, was recognized as the Best Corporate Social Responsibility Program by the competition's panel of judges, comprised of banking and finance journalists, industry leaders, and practitioners across the region.

Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto Sobrepeña expressed his appreciation for the honor bestowed on the Foundation, saying that the recognition is a testament to Metrobank's active participation and deep involvement in helping the nation move forward.

"We are pleased to be given the opportunity to put the Philippine corporate social responsibility practices in the global map. This award is a testament to the Metrobank Group's unwavering commitment to helping local communities and our contribution to nation-building.



METROBANK Foundation president Aniceto Sobrepeña (right) representing the Metrobank Group at the awarding ceremony in Singapore, where he received the award from Asian Banking and Finance Magazine editor-in-chief Tim Charlton.

Since we started the Foundation's work in 1979, we have continuously worked with our partners in both public and private sectors in advancing our advocacies in education, arts, public service, and health," he said.

"Metrobank Group chair George SK Ty always reminds us to put more meaning into our achievements by giving back and sharing the fruits of our success with the society that made our success possible in the first place," he explained.

This includes delivering programs to local communities that complement the values-oriented business culture of the Metrobank Group. Metrobank Foundation takes great effort in going after the public and private schools especially in the countryside for excellent men and women who have proven their service to the community to be honored with a Metrobank excellence award.

On top of its excellence awards, the Bank has also espoused good corporate citizenship in various areas like providing grants to deserving charities and scholarships to college students. Aside from being recognized for practicing good corporate governance, the Bank has also supported the government by providing the financing needs of various sectors through specialized lending and proper payment of taxes. In 2007, the Metrobank Group has remitted a total of P24.98 billion in national and municipal taxes, earning a respectable position as one of the nation's large taxpayers.

Sobrepeña added that as a responsible corporate citizen, Metrobank shall remain committed to making meaningful contributions for the economic and social development of local communities, towards the greater goal of nation-building.



INTERNATIONAL celebrity Jackie Chan again teams up with Visa and Olympic ambassador Yao Ming to promote Visa's Olympic games promo.

Visa gives chance to win trips to the Beijing 2008 Olympics

FROM NOW UNTIL JAN. 31, ANYONE who spends at least P1,500 in a single transaction on their Philippine-issued Visa Debit, Prepaid and Credit card will stand a chance to win a trip for two to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Ten packages for two people each will be given away in Visa's "Beijing 2008 Olympics Visa Promotion". Limited edition Visa Olympic Games memorabilia will also be given out during the promotion.

Online submission

Cardholders simply need to submit their personal particulars and transaction information online or through SMS to register for the promotion. Those who choose to register online can do so over the newly created Visa Olympic marketing website www.visaolympics.com and access the "Philippines" page and click on the "current promotions" link to access the registration page.

"Millions of people around the world are looking forward to what is arguably the world's number one sporting event and we believe that as a worldwide Olympic sponsor since 1986, and through this promotion, Visa is in a special position to make it easier for its cardholders in the Philippines to stand a chance at experiencing the Olympic Games and to show their support for their athletes in person," Visa International country manager for the Philippines Bob Jordan said.

Limited edition Visa Olympic Games memorabilia and one package to the Games will be given away during every week between Dec. 26, 2007 and Jan. 24, 2008. Two packages to the Games will be given out during the last two weekly draws.

Passes to 3 events

Each package will be for two people and will consist of round-trip airline tickets, hotel accommodation, hotel transfers and passes to two events at the Games. Winners of the packages will also receive special Visa Olympic Games merchandise.

Winners will be notified via registered mail and through announcements in major daily newspapers. Each cardholder can only win once and if their name is drawn more than once, they will be awarded the package to the Olympic Games.

The Philippines is one of several markets across Asia Pacific to launch this promotion which is part of Visa's regional Olympic marketing campaign.

An Ilocos tour experience



TRAVELING UP NORTH IS NOT just an ordinary field trip or out-of-town escapade, but also an enriching experience.

A good portion of the Philippines' wealth is hidden in the Ilocos Region of Northern Luzon. Its main attractions include breathtaking seascapes and landscapes. Its colonial heritage is also a major factor that draws local and foreign tourists to this part of the country.

Vigan is the pride and capital of Ilocos Sur. This historic Hispanic city showcases the finest colonial architecture remaining in the Philippines. Old Spanish houses and antique shops selling memorabilia line the narrow cobblestone streets where horse-drawn *calesas* still serve as means of transportation.

The Malacañang of the North, once Marcos' presidential palace and estate, overlooking the legendary Paoay Lake, is said to be the very spot where the "lost town" of San Juan De Sahagun once stood.

Paoay Church, founded by the Augustinians in 1593, is noted for its architectural style. This famous fortress-like church has massive buttresses, exterior stairways and façade that are "earthquake baroque." It has a separate three-story bell tower, dating from 1793, which was used by local guerillas in World War II and as a lookout by the Katipuneros during the revolution.

Further up north is Pagudpud where white-sand beaches can be found. Connecting Ilocos and Cagayan Valley is the Patapat Bridge, the longest bridge in all of Ilocos.

Despite the long hours of travel, a tour to Ilocos is a thrill in itself. The ride gives visitors a view of the region's spectacular coastal scenery, tranquil rivers and lakes, and some 2,000-meter high mountains.

Explore the Ilocos Region and around the Philippines through Intrepid Travel. See Palawan, Cebu and Bohol, Davao, Banaue and Sagada, Iloilo, Batanes Islands, Camiguin Islands, Boracay and Caticlan, and more!

For inquiries and reservations, call 831-5240, 831-8561, 0921-9796155, or e-mail stepinside phils@yahoo.com.ph.

Living conditions that make diseases thrive

IT'S FAIRLY SAFE TO ASSUME THAT SOME living conditions allow certain diseases to thrive. Viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing illnesses don't just appear out of nowhere. The environment usually makes it conducive for these organisms to thrive and spread, hence causing epidemics.

The figures shown in 2005 Field Health Service Information System of the Department of Health and the previous surveys revealed that respiratory illnesses lead the list of the top 10 illnesses in the country. The statistics suggest that in places where there is large concentration of auto fumes, there are also high numbers of respiratory illnesses.

A summary of the abovementioned study of the DOH makes a telling conclusion: Metro Manila's environment still does not provide healthy living conditions.

Most number of Alri

In the findings of the Department of Health, Manila accounts for the most number of Acute Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (Alri) and pneumonia cases countrywide. A breakdown of the figures reveals that 96,010 of the Alri and pneumonia sufferers come from Metro Manila where obviously the daily discharge from vehicles and factories is largely concentrated.

In rural areas where factories and other industrial plants are located, people residing close to them are high-risk groups. A disregard for environmental regulation promotes industrial pollution and gives rise to diseases like bronchitis. For example, chronic bronchitis is found in higher than normal rates among coal miners, grain handlers, metal moulders, and other people who are continually exposed to dust. High concentrations of sulfur dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere also cause bronchitis.

In densely populated areas such as Metro Manila, it is possible, as reported cases reveal, for diseases such as malaria, dengue and chicken pox to spread. But it all begins of course, with conditions conducive to certain disease-causing bacteria. For example, places with too much stagnant and dirty water make dengue-carrying or malaria-carrying mosquitoes thrive. Once the mosquitoes infect one child, there is a high possibility of other children in these densely populated and congested areas catching the same disease.

Congested areas also make it possible for respiratory tuberculosis to occur. In squatter areas, where the available water is typically unsafe, the occurrence of diarrhea is always reported in the news. Of the 690,556 reported cases of Alri and pneumonia sufferers, 96,010 of them are found in Metro Manila.

Other diseases

Meanwhile, the occurrence of the 9 other diseases in almost always higher than those cases found outside of Metro Manila.

Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis sufferers number 94,058; Acute Watery Diarrhea 50,825; Hypertension 28,879; TB Respiratory 21,114; Influenza 15,665; Heart Diseases 5,875; Chicken pox 2,829; Acute Febrile Illness 2,795; and Dengue fever 2,132. Only malaria is not in the list but its in place is the Acute Febrile Illness which is relatively a new disease. The symptoms are similar to that of dengue.

If you live under conditions which are conducive to diseases thriving, you may have to take preventive measures by visiting a medical professional regularly. Relocation away from such conditions is drastic and the poor best step is to get a vaccine or alert your local health officials to address the situation.

In its effort to make people more conscious of their health, ACE Insurance Philippines is setting up medical assistance booths for a quick check-up from its doctors. They also give out helpful brochures and flyers that provide useful health tips.



HONDA BREAKS GROUND IN DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

Honda recently broke ground on the future site of Honda Cars Cavite (HCCV). Found on the along San Agustin Highway in Salitran, Dasmariñas, Honda Cars Cavite is the 24th full-service dealership in the country. In bringing world-class products and services closer to its customers, Cavitenos will soon enjoy more convenient access to the modern facilities with a 9-car display capacity, general repairs, preventive maintenance and body and paint repair services. HCCV, with land area totaling 6,441 sq.m., is just 15 minutes away from the Dasmariñas town proper. The groundbreaking ceremony was headed by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. president and general manager Hiroaki Nomura, HCCV chair of the board Ramon Antonio and HCCV president Clyde Ivan Chua. Relatives had the symbolic beaming of the Honda logo, that contained a copy of the dealer's layout plan, the dealer's issue of a national daily and some Philippine coins. Honda Cars Cavite is set to open by May 2008. Present during the ceremony were (from left) Alan Ong & Associates representative architect Jo-an Dee Ling; Chua; Antonio; Nomura; HCCV sales manager Patrick Chua; Honda Cars Philippines Inc. AVP-national service department Danny Pabro; Honda Cars Philippines Inc. AVP-market planning and logistics Gabby Perez; and engineer Fernando Magat, construction head.

SpongeBob SquarePants returns to Enchanted Kingdom

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS WILL MAKE HIS second visit to Enchanted Kingdom! This Nickelodeon character first visited the country's first and only world-class theme park Dec. 2 and guests have been asking to have him back ever since. So, SpongeBob SquarePants will splash into action with Nickheads of all ages when he visits at 4 p.m. on Dec. 30, Sunday. Come and and meet SpongeBob SquarePants. You won't need your swimming suit, he'll be at Brooklyn Place near Rialto Theater. Be one of the first 40 guests to have your pictures taken with this under the sea star. Maybe Mom and Dad will want their pictures taken, too. Just purchase two 200g Magnolia Cheese bricks worth P69 at the Magnolia Cheese booth at the Brooklyn Place area on Dec. 30, present your receipts to the above Cheddar and he will take you to SpongeBob SquarePants for a photo op. After having those cute photos taken with SpongeBob SquarePants, be a part of his wild and wacky adventure down Bikini Bottom by watching "SpongeBob SquarePants, The Ride", the newest addition in the Enchanted Kingdom's Rialto Theater in Brooklyn Place. For further inquiries, call 830-3111 to 16 or log on to www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph. Enchanted Kingdom is in San Lorenzo South, Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

CETAPHIL CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKS

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Give your loved ones the present they will love and cherish for a long time after this! Cetaphil is a mild, soap-free, non-drying and non-irritating skin cleanser. It gently removes dirt and oil, prevents infection and makes the skin soft and smooth. Fragrance-free and non-comedogenic. Cetaphil Gentle Skin Cleanser now comes in Yuletide Gift Packs. Cetaphil Christmas Bundles with the 250mL bottle and free packets are available at Mercury Drug Stores and other leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide. While Cetaphil 250mL bottle with a free 75 g cleansing bar can be bought at Watsons Personal Care Stores. Cetaphil, the most recommended skin cleanser by dermatologists and pediatricians, is gentle on the skin and perfect even for babies. It is easy to apply and may be used with or without water. Cetaphil has been the benchmark for sensitive skin cleansing in the United States and in more than 80 other countries. Give your friends and family presents they'll truly enjoy this Cetaphil Yuletide Gift Packs.



BUSINESS

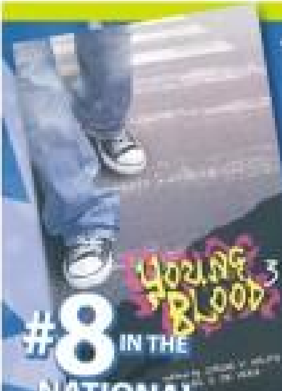
Inflation rise seen to slow down in '08

BSP says risks to come from oil, food supply disruptions



New year, new management for telco giant

BIR turns to PLDT, Meralco to hunt down tax evaders



THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood³ is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood³ is the young Filipino—unplugged.

#8 IN THE NATIONAL BOOKSTORE BESTSELLERS LIST

YOUNGBLOOD³

Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera

P395 bookpaper

P150 newsprint

Now available from National Book Store and PowerBooks.

Co-published by

and INQUIRER books

PROPERTY

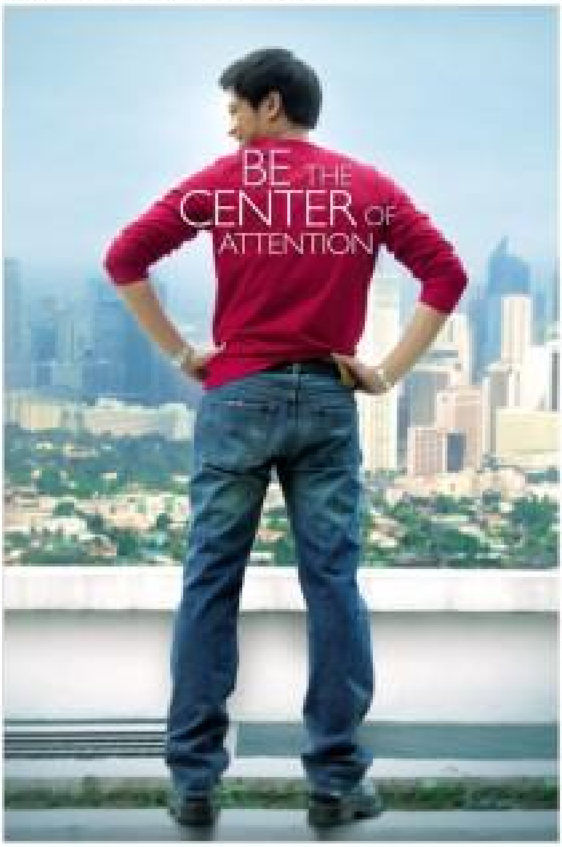
PROPERTY FORECAST

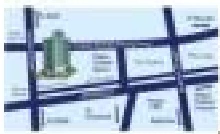
What to expect in 2008



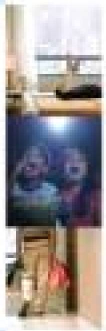
Emerging markets

Trends





Unit prices start at P1.5M or as low as P13,000 a month.





BEACON

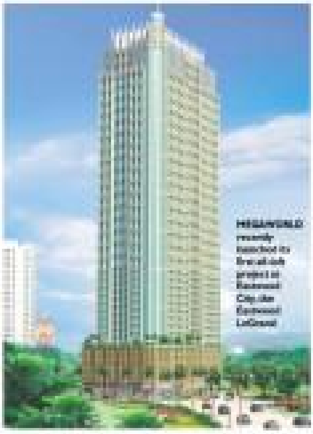
How to avoid bad luck all year round

Before New Year's Eve



On New Year's eve

On New Year's Day



Megaworld launches first all-loft project at Eastwood City

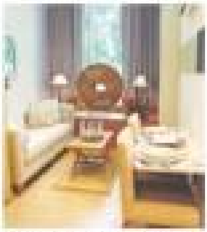
New tower

Luxurious living spaces

Be at the center of it all at Eton Emerald Lofts



Landmark development



Relaxation, leisure options

Furniture industry group ups the ante for Manila Now

Show dates

Venue

Positive feedback



What to expect in 2008

Emerging markets

Japanese minimalist design

GREEN ARCHITRENDS



Amado de Jesus

[illegible]

Minimalist design

[illegible]

Simple design

[illegible]

Indoors and outdoors

[illegible]

MINIMALIST design in architecture means retaining only the most essential elements of a building without compromising the building's function and aesthetics. Shown is the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer (Ecety) Building in Yokkaichi, Japan



Design for easy maintenance

[illegible]



A MINIMALIST building, like the Icett Building in Yokkaichi, Japan, features an inner courtyard which allows a lot of natural light into adjacent parts of the building, along with the benefits of natural ventilation, thus further enhancing the occupants' closeness to nature.

Relevance to energy efficiency

[illegible]

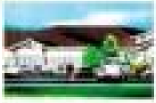




ESTABLISHMENTS WITHIN THE CARMELTOWN COMMUNITY

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE | NYK MARITIME ACADEMY | CARMELTOWN VILLAGE SQUARE | THE MILLS COUNTRY CLUBHOUSE



NOW ON ITS 2ND YEAR! | FULLY OPERATIONAL SINCE JUNE 2007 | SOON TO RISE | NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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exclusive selling network: ORCHARD PROPERTY MARKETING CORPORATION

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SM Sta. Rosa office at the 2nd floor!
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Our main office: (02) 635-48-46
www.orchardproperty.com.ph

2 DILG guidelines help developers vs delays

Awesome Structures

The Space Needle



Creba supports BSP OFW retail bonds





AmiSa is a resort community comprised of a hotel, residential condominiums, gaming center, and other recreational facilities. It is nestled by the Magellan Bay in Mactan where you can enjoy viewing the picturesque northern towns of Cebu and breathe in the fresh salty sea air.

AmiSa

This week Super means: Super Info - Ubas - Paputok - Emergency room - Resolution





Quiz Show

by Tole Bloc



Nomad's mileage

by Paolo Reyes



Arkeo-logy

by James Gabrillo

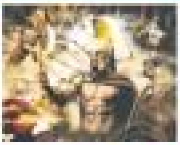
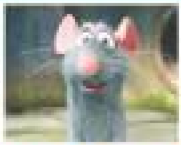


And our top picks for 07



Happy New Year from Super





OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

Hammy New Year

ANGELINA JOLIE, Vladimir Putin, JK Rowling—all these stellar figures in one corner of the universe undoubtedly rocked the year that was. Yet there is one Hollywood debutant, I believe, that stands out in the pop culture petri dish as the most influential figure of 2007. This was his year, after all. Just who is this enigmatic star? Channel your inner codebreaker and take this quizzicle that tests your recall of this year's top movies. Then unscramble the boxed letters after to unlock the mystery character! (Answer key is on next page).

1. This eye-popping film about a tiny nation outnumbered by [illegible] who never [illegible]. [illegible] is based on a historical battle that was retold in a graphic novel by Frank Miller. What was this famous historical battle? (11 letters)

2. "Ratatouille" gave hope to all aspiring cooks who could [illegible] in "Iron Chef" with an egg beater. Which [illegible] actor lent his voice to the [illegible] food critic who [illegible] in a coffin-shaped room? (Clue: he also plays the King of [illegible] in "Stardust"). (11 letters)

3. When [illegible] [illegible] about [illegible] is also known as "[illegible]," which was its working title? (12 letters)

4. This Golden Globe nominee can be searched in the Internet Movie Database (IMDB) with these search tags: "Recurring Character Killed Off," "[illegible]," "[illegible]," "Pig," and "[illegible]." (18 letters)

5. This was the opening film of the 2007 Venice Film Festival, which made [illegible] the youngest director to ever open the prestigious event. (Clue: it was adapted from a novel by Ian McEwan.) (9 letters)

Just who is this most enigmatic character of the year? Channel your inner Da Vinci and follow the clues to the star

6. This [illegible] Hollywood actor [illegible] the Golden Globe nominees of 2007 [illegible] which could have been something he picked up during his Manila [illegible] in the middle of the year. (15 letters)

7. "30 Days of Night" was adapted from the [illegible] graphic novel series created by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith. What kind of preternatural creatures invaded the town of Barrow, Alaska, where the winter sun doesn't rise for 30 days? (8 letters)

8. In "Stardust," who plays the "fearsome" Captain Shakespeare who [illegible] a flying pirate ship, [illegible] to be a [illegible]? (12 letters)

9. Like, whoa dude, what is the name of the [illegible] who [illegible] Zoe [illegible] Cindy. (9 letters)

The People Who Rocked 2007

By Wengzz Gellego

They made us gasp and go 'ooh' and 'aah.' They gave us something to aspire to and they made our dreams tangible and real. While some struggled, these eight people breezed through 2007 and made it their year

Al Gore

Former US Vice President Al Gore and his environmental activism led the most prominent issue of 2007—going green. He started in the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" which got people concerned. Not only did his message [illegible] people to care about the environment, he also raised funds for the [illegible] Live Earth concert which spread awareness about the need to combat climate change. The event brought together over 150 musical acts in [illegible] locations around the world. If that didn't make him cool, he capped it off by winning the Nobel Peace Prize for all of that and then some.

Johnny Depp

Johnny Depp has always been a solid performer but because of his love for strange and quirky roles, it seemed that an Academy award that would cement his position as a serious actor was never within reach. It took Hollywood—and the world—some time, but they finally took notice of his genius when he played the eccentric Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" trilogy. The role got him his first Oscar nod which was followed by another with "Finding Neverland." 2007 welcomed Jack Sparrow again and the last part of the Pirates trilogy raked in [illegible] in [illegible] days, [illegible]. Depp also played Sweeney Todd this year, in the Tim Burton film adaptation of the Stephen Sondheim musical, getting rave reviews and a very possible third Oscar nomination. Johnny Depp has not changed with his newfound stardom, becoming a [illegible] that still celebrates you can be cool by being unusual.

J.K. Rowling

The Harry Potter franchise is now a global brand that is worth an estimated $15 billion. The final book, which came out this year, holds the record as the fastest-selling book in history. The series has made Rowling the 13th richest woman in Britain and the second richest female entertainer in the world, second only to Oprah. She has been cited to have returned the spark of reading for children who have abandoned books for computer games and television. She has sold almost 400 million copies of her book worldwide. [illegible]



ROWLING is [illegible]



CAPTAIN [illegible]

Radiohead

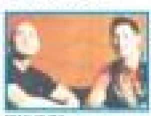
The English alternative band released their 7th album this year that might actually be their most solid effort to date, and managed to do this without a recording contract. Produced out of their own pockets, Radiohead released the whole album "In Rainbows" online as digital downloads with a "pay what you want" system where people can decide how much they want to pay for it. On the day the album was available for downloading, it was reported that 1.2 million copies of the album was sold and though the band doesn't want to release any figures, it was reported that an average of [illegible] was paid. Thom Yorke told Time Magazine, "I like the people at our recording company, but the time is at hand when you have to ask why anyone needs one. ... It would probably give us some perverse pleasure to say 'Fuck You' to this decaying business model." Indeed.

David and Victoria Beckham

The world's coolest couple made a strategic move from the cold, foggy climes of London to sunny LA where David Beckham was asked to play soccer for LA Galaxy for a whopping $250 million with incentives. Spicing things up is Victoria's new fashion brand DVB fashion merchandise and a reunion tour with the Spice Girls that was sold out almost on the very day the tickets were available. With friends that include Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise and his wife Katie Holmes, it simply oozes and a [illegible] this side of a country's GDP the Beckhams prove that you can have it all.



THEY brought [illegible]



FREQUENT flyers

On the home front:

Iza Calzado

Iza Calzado had a great year. At an enviable position of not only having her fair share of the spotlight which includes another hit soap under her belt (Impostora), an indie film co-starring [illegible] and a movie which is an entry in this year's MMFF (Desperadas). She also bagged a role in the Hollywood film "The Echo." As a [illegible], she is co-owner of The Tides in Boracay which has become one of the trendiest places to stay in the white beach paradise and has reportedly been completely full. Is booked that not even her can get a room for herself!

Marc Nelson and Rovilson

Fernandez

The two self-proclaimed clowns of "Amazing Race Asia" is undoubtedly the favored team to win and the reason why so many people are watching the show. Without a doubt, their good looks and fun personality have captured the viewer's attention. Guys want to be them and girls want to be with them. Marc and Rovilson are definitely making the Philippines look good.

Manny Pacquiao

The Pacman remains the Philippines' pride and joy and the man to beat. He represents the Filipinos as fierce competitors, and if not, well, at least as fierce fighters. Manny Pacquiao cemented his fame as a champion boxer when he defeated Marco Antonio Barrera on their rematch. Honored as a Champ Emeritus by the World Boxing Council, the Pacman is one of the greatest boxers of his decade.



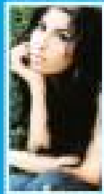
DESPERADA [illegible]

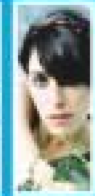


Music and tabloids

A tabloid queen, a rise in originality, the absence of platform sneakers and songs you can't get out of your head—no doubt about it, 2007 was a great year in music













Answer key to Hammy new year:

1. THERMOPYLAE
2. PETER O TOOLE
3. TRANSFORMERS
4. THE SIMPSONS MOVIE
5. ATONEMENT
6. QUENTIN TARANTINO
7. VAMPIRES
8. ROBERT DE NIRO
9. SHREK

BOXED LETTERS - R, P, S, I, E, I, P, D, G = SPIDERPIG. It was the year of the Spider-Pig! Hammy New Year to all!

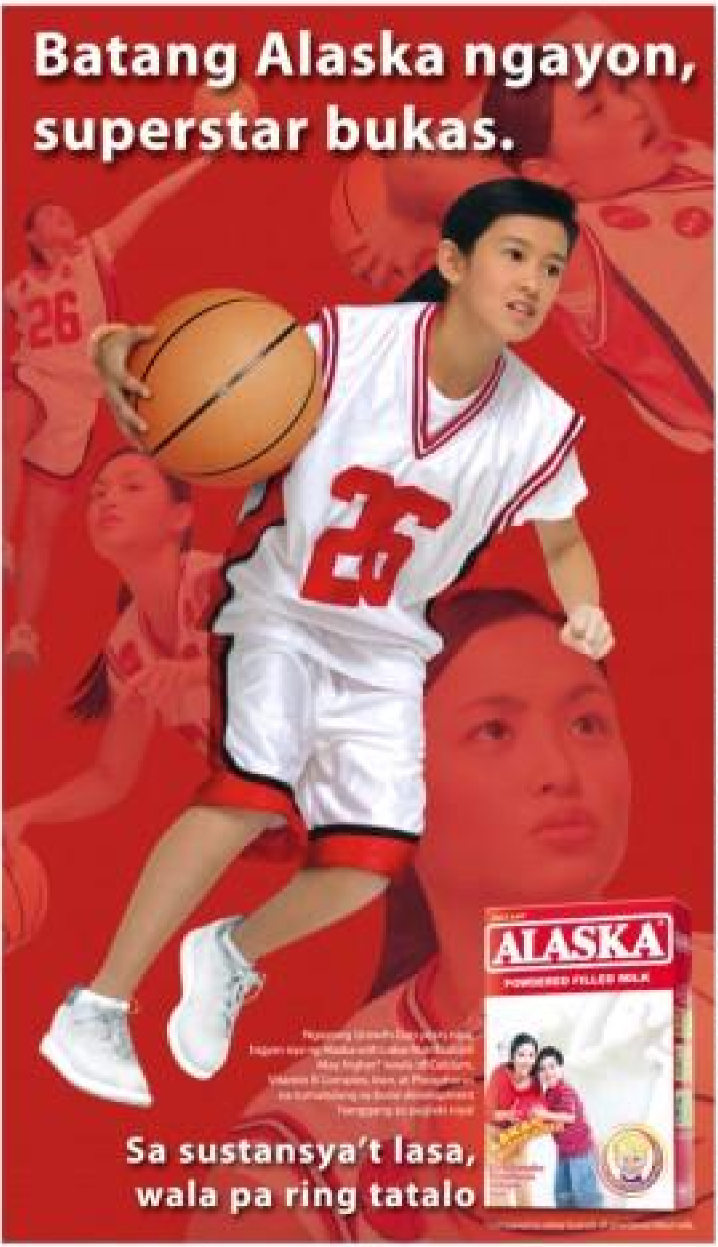


ALASKA POWDERED FILLED MILK SPELLS VICTORY FOR YOUNG ATHLETES!

WHEN Alaska Powdered Filled Milk was casting for lead children to play the parts of the Victory Boy and Girl in their new TV commercial, there was no need to look far. At the Alaska Sports Clinic, there was a wealth of talented, sporty and athletic kids to choose from.

For the football ad, the unanimous choice was 9-year-old Renzo Marabulos. Renzo comes from a family of soccer players. His brothers, Raphael and Robin, are strong football players in their respective age groups and Renzo is currently the captain of his football team. He has also won several football awards from his school. All the Marabulos boys take their cue from their mom, Mrs. Trinie Marabulos, who makes sure that Renzo and his brothers are happy, well motivated and healthy to pursue their professional football dreams. She gives them Alaska Milk everyday so that they get all the vitamins and minerals they need to convert to energy on and off the football field.

Our Victory Girl is Sarah Castaneda. Sarah started playing sports at the young age of 5, and excels at both football and basketball. It is a tough feat for a proper and young girl like Sarah, but with the help of her mom, Mrs. Lourdes "Durdie" Castaneda, Sarah is all set to be a top basketball dribbler and player. Mrs. Castaneda made sure that Sarah got her full nutrition needs with Alaska Powdered Filled Milk since she was young. Now at 10, Sarah continues to enjoy Alaska Powdered Filled Milk and this gives her all that she needs for her incredibly active lifestyle. Be it at the court or in school, Sarah is one girl everyone can look up to. From dribbling to making perfect shots, Sarah is perfect as the basketball girl in the Alaska Milk TV commercial.





Sports can be demanding on an adult, but it is even more demanding on children. Their Growth Gap years are the time when they discover sports or things that they can excel at. During this time they should get proper nutrition for maximum growth and potential.

For football and basketball, mental awareness, quick reflexes, speed, stamina, resistance to disease and strong bones are necessary for achieving success. Both team sports require rigorous and strict physical practice sessions as well as mental alertness to get them to victory. All these, on top of everyday homework, housework and socializing with friends, require a lot of caring and support from Mom.

Mothers know that a right diet, a good night's sleep and exercise are key to their child reaching their full potential. With Alaska Powdered Filled Milk after meals, she can be confident that her child is getting the right amount of nutrients and minerals in every glass. Mothers get the fulfillment of giving the best to their kids for them to achieve their full potential.

Together with Alaska, Moms and young athletes are headed towards victory. Walang tatalo sa pag-aalaga ng ina.

Wala pa ring tatalo sa Alaska.

Super

Breaking brave grounds

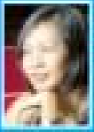
Arkeofilms is saving the movies (and intelligent & hip 2008) from the dumpster

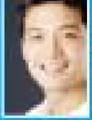












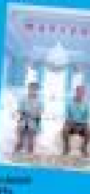


Breaking brave grounds

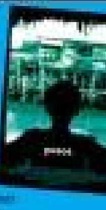




THE GOODS







What a Wanderful World

Itching for some clouds of white and skies of blue? Travel far and away from the tourist radar in 2008

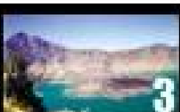




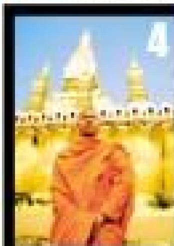
Algeria



Quito



Lombok



Laos



Hvar

'07's supershows

The supercrew stayed glued on the tube this year. Blame the following



1. Pushing Daisies
It premiered two months ago, and charmed audiences worldwide. The best show of the year has the most fantastic premise: pie maker Ned can bring the dead back to life with a single touch. A great script matched with Tim Burtonesque production design, "Pushing Daisies" pitch-perfectly brings an awesome storybook to life.

2. 30 Rock
Preposterously genius writing. Subversive dialogue and pop culture references blended with style. Absolutely no effort exerted to be PC. Tina Fey, of course. And we can't believe there would come a time when we would say this: Alec Baldwin. Hotttt. Jesus—the funniest thing on the tube.



Chuck

3. Hustle
Focusing on the adventures of a gang of London-based con artists, this hyper-stylized British comedy-drama series is a gem that not a lot of Pinoys have gotten the chance to see. With its clever plot twists, excellent cinematography, fantasy sequences, playful introductions, and top notch acting, the series flawlessly plays a confidence game with the viewers. Funny thing is, in the end, we find ourselves as the ones tricked by the con guys.

4. Lost
After a rousing and forceful third season, the show—with its unforgettable cast and finished universe—remains to be a critical and popular success. A little trivia: "Lost" will air its final episode on May 2010—on its sixth season.

5. Chuck
A socially awkward computer whiz receives an e-mail that embeds the world's greatest spy secrets into his brain. Incidentally, he is "hired" by the States' intelligence agencies to help save the day from the bad guys. "Chuck" is funny and mind-blowing—how do they think of these things?

6. Big Love
A big family that's keeping a big secret from the outside world—this is "Big Love." Well-researched, uniquely outrageous, emotionally real, and just plain original. Plus, its theme song, The Beach Boys' "God Only Knows," is pretty neat.

7. Heroes
The character development of everybody's favorite sci-fi series just keeps on getting better and better.

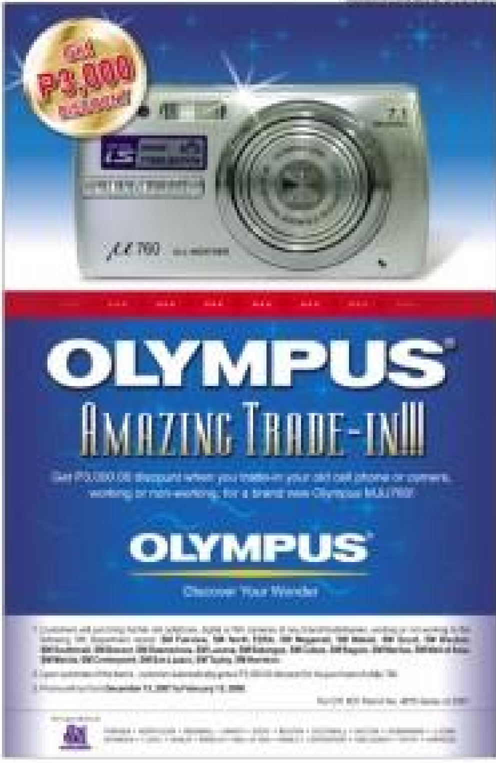
8. Gossip Girl
You know you love it: the scandalous lives of New York's Upper East Side young adults studying in elite high schools, the series is nothing but entertaining and addicting.

9. Top Chef
We would've picked the hilarious "Hell's Kitchen" to take this slot, but we realized (after a slew of episodes) that "Top Chef" is really on a different league. The source of the success of the show's third season is an amazing, talented cast.

10. Project Runway
Bravo's reality show, now on its fourth season, is one design mayhem. 'Nuff said.



Gossip Girl





FULL THROTTLE AT NATIONWIDE MOTORSHOW

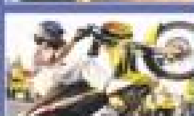
Suzuki leads the turn to a motorcycle-loving society

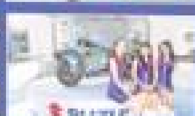








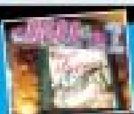


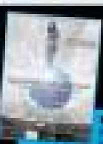


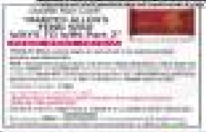


36th Anniversary
Christmas SALE!
SANYO
CASH
12 MONTHS
24 MONTHS
P106,995
LESS P20,000
LESS P8,000
P8,249.59
P4,458.12
P86,995
LESS P15,000
LESS P6,000
P6,749.58
P3,624.79
P52,995
LESS P8,000
LESS P4,000
P4,082.91
P2,208.12
ABSOLUTELY FREE
VPC-S700
digital camera
HOME UPGRADES!
A
B
C
P19,995
P9,995
P9,495
P10,995
P6,495
P5,995
P4,495
P4,295
BEST BUY!
P7,495
SANYO REFRIGERATORS
FREE GAS STOVE
P44,000
FREE GAS STOVE
P26,000
FREE GAS STOVE
P15,995
FREE GAS STOVE
P15,295
FREE GAS STOVE
P10,095
BEST BUY!
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT
P6,935
SANYO DIGITAL CAMERAS
FREE
P28,995
FREE
P29,995
FREE
P11,495
FREE
P15,995
SANYO AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES
FREE FLAT IRON
P19,995
FREE FLAT IRON
P14,995
FREE FLAT IRON
P11,295
SANYO SPLIT-TYPE AIR CONDITIONERS
P20,495
P47,500
FREE INSTALLATION for FIRST 10 11.
SANYO PANG-KABUHAYAN SERIES
P19,995
P22,995
P33,409
P10,995
ABENSON Stores

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

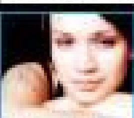


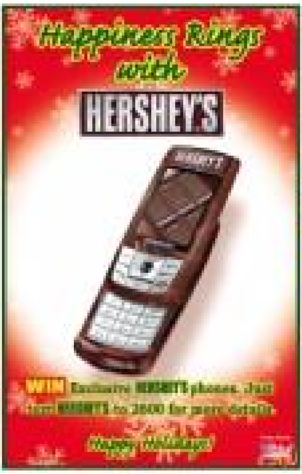




24/7 SUPER RADAR













Where to Stop Where to Go

[illegible]

Intercontinental Manila welcomes 2008

[illegible]



Welcome The Year of the Rat with a suite life



[illegible]

ASB Condotels dines top accounts

[illegible]



The ASB Condotels and Resort Sales & Marketing Team with COO Ms. Bernadette Castro with some of the awardees.

Christmas family room package at The Century Park Hotel

[illegible]



[illegible]

Ten reasons we loved the nightlife in 2007





10

9





8

7



5



6

4





3





1

2



Fed up in 2007

It was a year of good eats and treats. Looking for an excuse to break your diet resolution for 2008? Read on



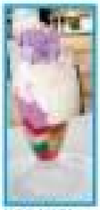
TOFU Caesar salad



FRIED EEL with black bean sauce



Top 10 food



THE CLASSIC halo-halo

Top 5 dessert



MOLTEN chocolate cake



BUTTERCREAM frosted cupcake





SATURDAY Special

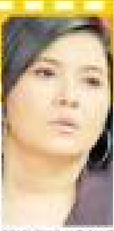


NOW SHOWING

Relevant themes in well-meaning but derivative MMFF entries

By Rito P. Asilo

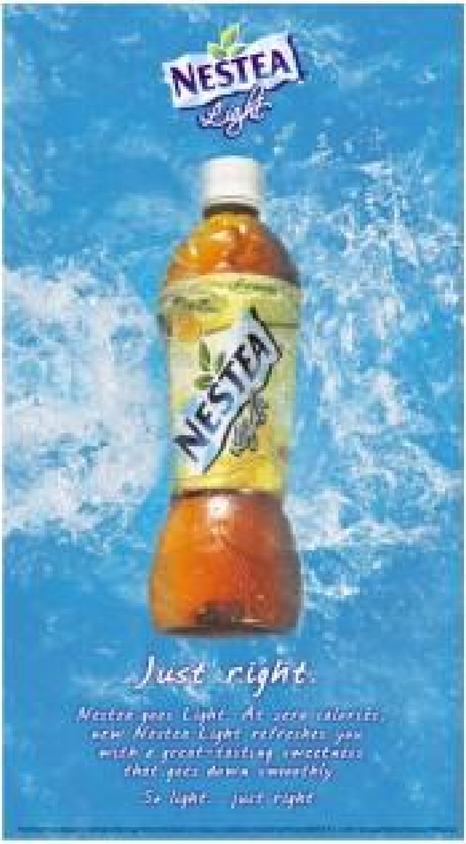
"Katas ng Saudi"; "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo"





TOLENTINO AND SANTOS.



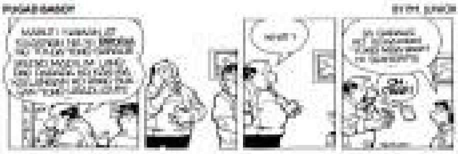




A. LIPIN



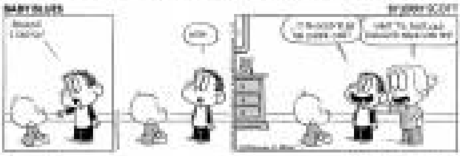
PUGAD BABOY



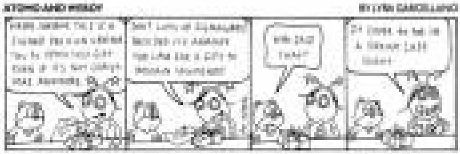
GARFIELD



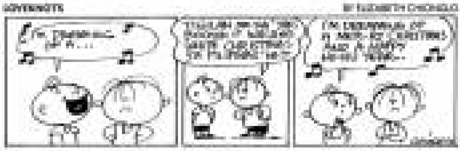
BABY BLUES



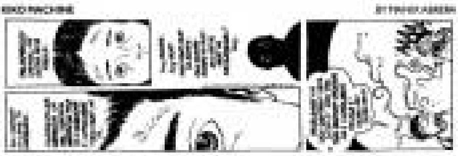
ATOMO AND WENDY



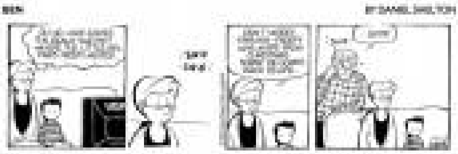
LOVENOTS



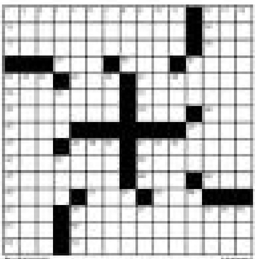
KIKO MACHINE



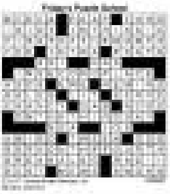
BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD



Friday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		4	6					
		9	3					
		7				8	5	
	9		8			4	7	
		6				3		
	1	2			7		8	
	6	5				2		
					5	1		
					4	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

Fil-Ams in Hollywood share thoughts on writers' strike



Necessary step

State of the art

Celine Dion takes chances . . .

Relevant

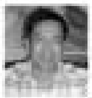
Anmum Lacta

Specially formulated for breastfeeding moms

Mothers are recommended to drink 2 glasses of Anmum Lacta everyday to support their increased nutritional needs during breastfeeding.

ANMUM LACTA is specially formulated to help breastfeeding mothers meet their Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake (RENI). A product of Fonterra Brands Philippines, ANMUM LACTA helps in maintaining the nutritional composition of breast milk while replenishing maternal stores during the post-natal period. ANMUM LACTA is a good source of Vitamins B1, B2, B3, B12, Folate, Calcium, Iron, and Vitamin A. It also contains Sialic Acid (SA) and Essential Fatty Acids (EFA), precursors of DHA and AA, which are important nutrients for your baby's brain development.





BREASTFEEDING

Why breastfeed immediately after birth?



AYALA MALLS CINEMAS and REGAL ENTERTAINMENT present

REGAL Extravaganza 2007

MEET & GREET the stars of

SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLL 9

DESPERADAS

Bahay Kubo
A Pinoy Mano Po!

DECEMBER 29, 2007 • 6:00 pm
Glorietta Activity Center



YULETIDE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS

The adoration of a mouse



Obedient dog

Friendly and bright

Celine Dion takes chances in latest album



Mortgage

Sentimentality

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

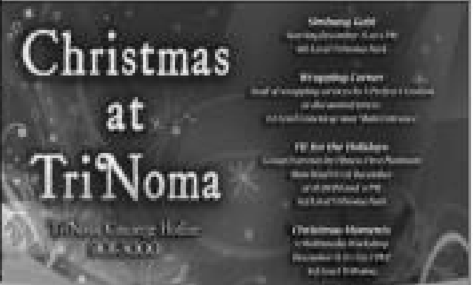
AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET! MARKET!

TRINOMA

AT THE MALLS





SATURDAY *Special*



Most fascinating interviews of 2007, Part 2


WINFREY: Spirituality and sense of self

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WE CONTINUE with our appreciation of the celebrities who kept us awake in the press rooms we attended in 2007.

Oprah Winfrey

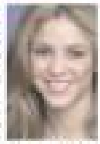
The talk show queen is a master at interviews. When asked, "If you had only one more day to live, what would you do?" Oprah answered, "I have thought about that every day since 9/11. Every morning, when I'm putting on my shoes or doing the ordinary things, I think about the victims of 9/11, who did the same thing. They got dressed, brushed their teeth, showered and did all the ordinary things that we do. Some of them came home. That's part of my daily meditation. I ask myself, 'Is this the way I'd like to spend my last day?'"

How does she keep her soul? She replied: "By having spiritual roots—knowing the essence of who you are, so you don't allow the world and the words, thoughts and perceptions of the world to define who you are. I know who I am, regardless of what's written or said about me. I'm rooted in my own spirituality and my sense of self."

US Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama's top supporter believes that racism can be cured—"but I don't think we can do it in our lifetime. It's an ongoing process for people to open their hearts and recognize that we're more alike than different. When you have people in power who have not been exposed to diversity, it's very easy for them to feel superior to others."

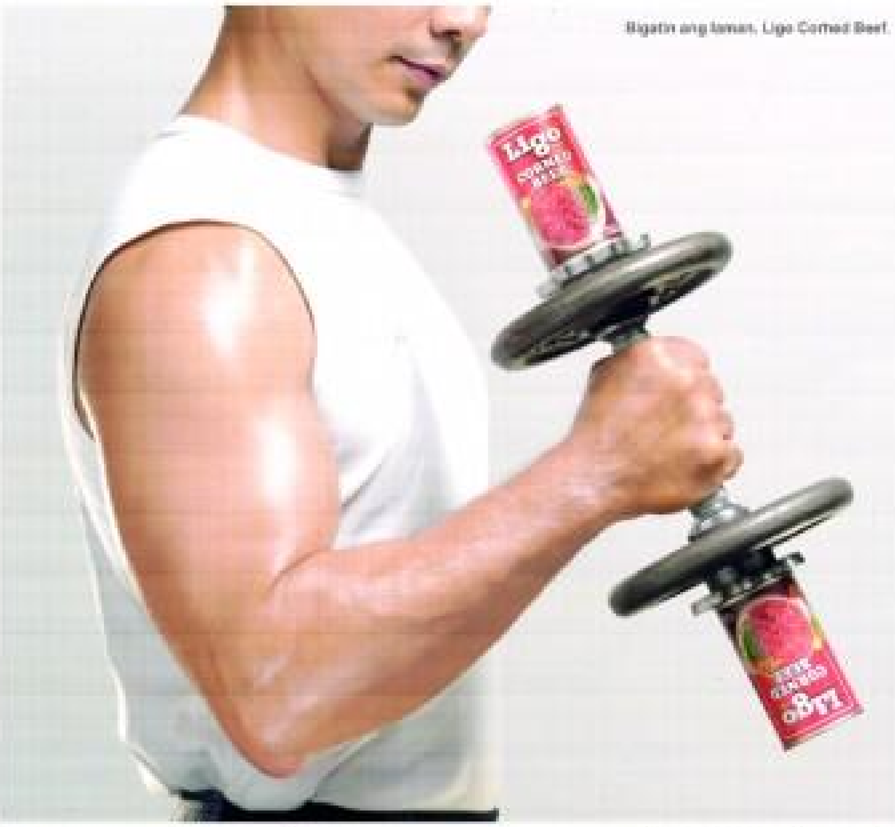
Shakira

Surprise! There's more to the hip-swiveling pop star than her long curly locks and [illegible]. Shakira's answers to our questions were spontaneous, yet they were well composed. She was passionate and articulate about her philanthropy, especially in her program to help children around [illegible].


SHAKIRA: Advocacy for needy children

"We should all be concerned about

NEXT [illegible]

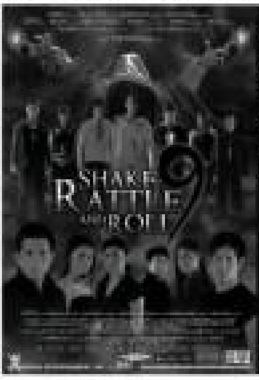




SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

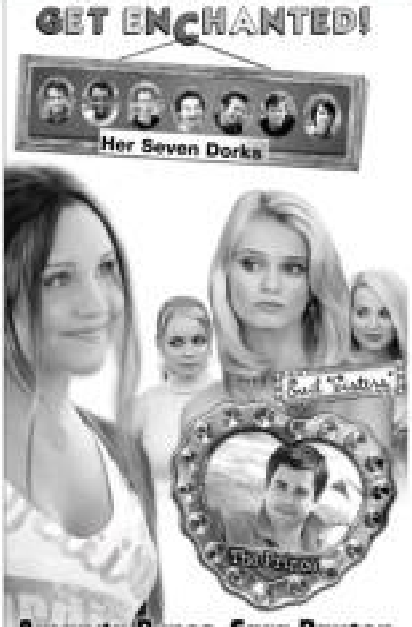


NOW SHOWING
AT ALL SM CINEMAS NATIONWIDE



PG-13

OPENS JANUARY 8



Amanda Bynes Sara Paxton

Sydney White

...and The Seven Dorks.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS

ARANETA COLISEUM

PURE HOLIDAY MAGIC!

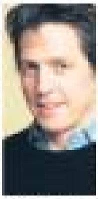
LIVE!

Globe



BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

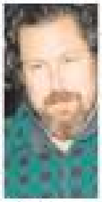
Most fascinating interviews. . .



GRANT: Amazing.



COHEN: Hilarious.



SCHNABEL: Affecting film.



LEWIS: Terrific performance.



CLOONEY: Humanitarian cause.

Daniel Day Lewis

Julian Schnabel

Hugh Grant

Sacha Baron Cohen

George Clooney









ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIE SCHEDULES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
1 SAKAL, SAKALI SAKLOLO - THX
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
3 RESIKLO
4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 BAHAY KUBO
6 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
7 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
8 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
9 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
10 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9



ERMITA
1 RESIKLO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
6 BAHAY KUBO
7 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO

METRO EAST
1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
2 BAHAY KUBO
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKALO
4 RESIKLO
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
6 KATAS ng SAUDI
7 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
8 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

NOVALICHES
1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
3 BAHAY KUBO
4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
7 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
8 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

PIONEER
1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
2 BAHAY KUBO
3 KATAS ng SAUDI
4 RESIKLO

STA. ROSA
1 RESIKLO
2 BAHAY KUBO
3 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
4 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
5 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

LIPA
1 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
3 BAHAY KUBO
4 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
5 RESIKLO

DASMARIÑAS
1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
5 BAHAY KUBO

IMUS
1 RESIKLO
2 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
3 BAHAY KUBO
4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

ANGELES
1 RESIKLO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
3 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
4 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9

TARLAC
1 RESIKLO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
3 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9

STARMILLS
1 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
2 BAHAY KUBO
3 KATAS ng SAUDI
4 SAKAL SAKALI SAKALO
5 RESIKLO
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4

BACOLOD
1 BAHAY KUBO
2 SAKAL SAKALI SAKALO
3 RESIKLO
4 ENTENG KABISOTE 4
5 KATAS ng SAUDI
6 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9

ILOILO
1 RESIKLO
2 SHAKE RATTLE and ROLL 9
3 BAHAY KUBO
4 KATAS ng SAUDI
5 SAKAL SAKALI SAKLOLO
6 ENTENG KABISOTE 4



New Year's resolutions for celebrities

By Nestor U. Torre



SANTOS AND AUNOR (RIGHT): Should work more to score films in 2008.



Less gullible

Major reforms

Comeback movie

Mother Ignacia's legacy continues in eco farm

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

Volunteer

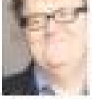
Butterfly sanctuary





Most fascinating interviews . . .

From page G1



MOORE: Now proud.

Michael Moore

'Minutes to Midnight' marks turning point for Linkin Park

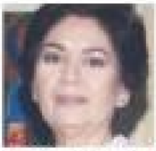




RAP-METAL group wants to maintain its integrity by pushing its musical boundaries.

[illegible]

Celebs recall their favorite Christmas carols





PEREZ AND ALAJAR. Love "O Holy Night" and "You're All I Want for Christmas," respectively.

[illegible]



THE MONTANOS sing "Adeste Fideles" to their eldest daughter, Angelica, during the shooting of "The Great Raid" in Australia.

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Ricky Davao prepares to play his most challenging role

[illegible]



DAVAO AND ANSALIDA: [illegible] "Padre Pio ng Pietrelcina."



[illegible]

Complex character

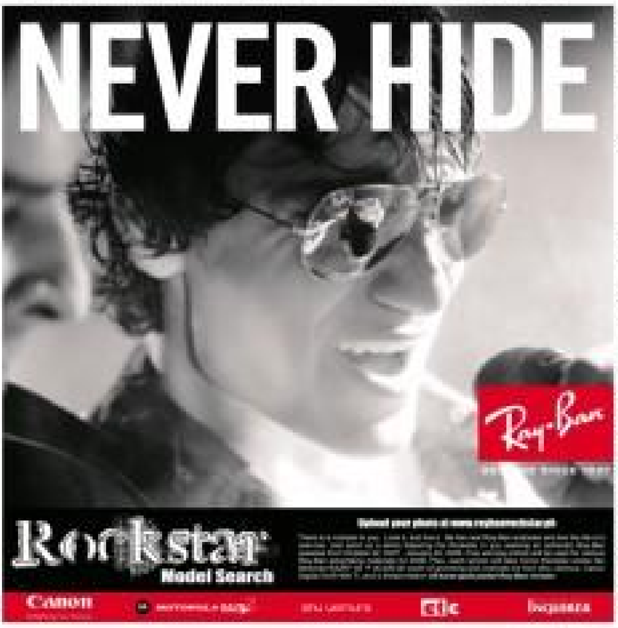
[illegible]

Intensive rehearsals

[illegible]

Evangelizing dimension

[illegible]



'Music & Memories' at Manila Hotel

[illegible]

MONTAGE



[illegible]

Bamboo Organ Festival

[illegible]

Movies on TV

[illegible]

'I Am Legend' at Imax Theater

[illegible]

Lav Diaz film fest

[illegible]

'Rose Parade' on Studio 23

[illegible]



"I AM LEGEND." [illegible]





